population and 73 per cent of the rural population have been provided with safe drinking water supply facilities. Since water supply is a State subject, necessary measures are being taken by the State Governments and the Union Territories to extent the facility to the remaining population subject to the availability of resources.

Software development programme of Doordarshan

2162. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether software development programme of the Doordarshan is lagging behind and most of the expansion taking place has only resulted into frustration for viewers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) During the last five years there has been tremendous growth in the TV service specially in providing TV signals to the various parts of the country. Due to this, Software development has not been able to keep pace with Hardware development of TV. Expansion of TV relay service was given more consideration during this period so that TV could reach the masses. Also, the availability of programmes from private producers did to some extent delay the vigourous action to develop software by Doordarshan.

(b) More emphasis is now being laid on the development of software during the Eighth Plan. Even during the remaining period of 7th Plan it is proposed to set up studio facilities in the Capitals of some States and the number of Programme Producing Kendras will go up from the present 18 to 48 after completion of the Seventh Plan Schemes. The Central Production Centre in New Delhi has also started functioning and technically and content-wise quality programmes are expected to be produced. Simultaneously, efforts are also being made to organise training/reorientation work-shops to enable the producers to better their knowledge and skills.

Uniform standards for training of professionals in the field of rehabilitation of handicapped

2163. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rehabilitation Council has come up to enforce uniform standards for training of professionals in the field of rehabilitation of handicapped; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The training courses developed by the Rehabilitation Council during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are annexed.

Statement

(a) Training Courses developed during 1986-87—

(i) B.S.C. Course in Hearing, Language and Speech.

(ii) Diploma Course in Hearing, Language and Speech.

(iii) Degree Course for Teachers B. Ed. (H.I)-A Post Graduate Level Course.

(iv) Teachers Training Diploma Course in Hearing Impaired B. Ed. (H.I.).